

IA: Air  
(SPECIFY AIR OR SEA POUCH)

DISPATCH SGAA- 32537  
2-126-20/1

PRIORITY

TO : Chief, SE  
FROM : Chief of  *1st Sat*  
SUBJECT: GENERAL— Plans/OBTEST  
SPECIFIC— Transmittal of Field Project Outline  
Reference:  18706, 10 May 1958

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY  
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
SOURCES/METHODS/EXEMPTION 3828  
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT  
DATE 2007

Action Required: None; for Headquarters information and files.

1. Via split pouch, we are sending you our proposed outline for Project OBTEST for the period 1 July 1958 to 30 June 1959. Submitted below are certain amplifying field comments which are given herewith for the record.

2. Remembering that OBTEST/1 is extremely limited in its activity (a very small target, limited transmitter facilities), we feel the program is well-geared to make the best advantage of this one specific area of PW activity - black radio propaganda. As such, we feel that it is well worth the anticipated \$21,095.00 in KUBARK costs. Furthermore, OBTEST/1 has in AIPLEBE a totally satisfactory script writer who can probably continue to produce top quality scripts during the coming year. However, as noted in previous references, AIPLEBE is having increasing difficulty in maintaining his National Socialist facade; if we are to guarantee ourselves continuing success for OBTEST/1, we must eventually find a new person with more current knowledge of the internal Albanian scene who can at least assist AIPLEBE in script writing. Such a person as Subject of DIR 16486, 8 April 1958 is of definite interest to us. Naturally we shall exert every attempt locally to produce this extra asset.

3. On the matter of evaluations of this project, we have been necessarily vague since we have no explicit information relating to the effectiveness of the program. We wish, however, to call your attention to the most recent of several instances in which Albanian leaders have attacked precepts which have been enunciated over OBTEST/1. In a speech given by Liri Belishova, Secretary of the Albanian Workers Party, which was re-broadcast over Radio Tirane on 24 May 1958, she is stated as saying: "At the moment, the leaders of the League (presumably the League of Communists of Yugoslavia) are trying to stop the unmasking of modern revisionism by saying that we are going back to the year 1948." This is the thesis of a special program by OBTEST/1 entitled History Is Being Repeated which was broadcast from 6 May to 17 May 1958 on the basis of Headquarters' guidance contained in DIR 19744, 29 April 1958. The point here is that this and several other examples may indicate that OBTEST/1 is being heard inside Albania, but in any case, that OBTEST/1 does appear to be timely and appropriate in its presentations.

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SGAA-  
Dated:  
Page 2

4. If and when Project OBTEST is approved, we request that Headquarters notify us of any changes in this project outline per se, and that we be provided with a complete statement of our budgetary obligations.

[ ]

Attachment:

Field Project Outline w/att a,  
cover sheet, pages 2, 4, 6, 8 and  
att under separate cover; pages 1,  
3, 5 and 7 herewith

VEP

VEP/RBO/rkj

5 June 1958

Distribution:

✓3 - Wash w/att in trip  
1 - Vital Documents w/att

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ATTACHMENT SGAA- 32537

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Dated:

FIELD PROJECT OUTLINE

PA5654  
Athens

123 JUN 1958

CRYPTONYM OBTEST

FIELD CASE OFFICER

STATION

CHIEF OF STATION

The attached Field Project Outline is presented for your approval.

See front of file

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2-126-201  
9 June 58

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- 1 -

**1. Objectives**

4m This project is ~~designed~~ to present to members of the Communist Party and Government in Albania certain evaluations, criticisms, and suggestions for the improvement of internal and foreign policies affecting the country with the ultimate purpose of: (a) loosening the ties between Albania and the Soviet Union; (b) encouraging modification of the harsher and more unenlightened policies of the regime; and (c) fostering disruptive influences with the hope of weakening the present regime.

**2. Origin and Policy Guidance**

a. OBTEST/1 was originated in May 1957 on previous recommendation from the field. This program was designed to carry a "black" message to the ~~extremely~~ small percentage of the Albanian population who are Communist Party members. Prior to this time, we had located an ex-Communist intellectual, ALPLEE, who had defected from Albania in November 1954 because he could not re-establish his Communist Party membership which he had previously lost because of his marriage to a Yugoslav woman of bourgeois background. As a believer in Communism who had (he felt) been mistreated by persons parading under the name of Communism, ALPLEE was considered an excellent candidate to carry our message of "true socialism" to the middle-level Albanian government employee and Party member. In March 1958, OBTEST/1 became our sole radio propaganda effort into Albania, and we have subsequently expanded our broadcast activity although no appreciable attempt has been made to enlarge the listening audience.

b. Policy Guidance:

- (1) Related Mission Directive, ~~#1, Tasks b and e.~~ Priority B, Objective
- (2) SGAW 11175, 30 December 1955.
- (3) Amendment #1 to OBTEST Field Project Outline of 18 July 1957.
- (4) SGAW 15080, 28 March 1957.
- (5) Headquarters' monthly papers for guidance and support of OBTEST/1.

**3. Situation**

4f OBTEST/1 attempts to be eminently realistic in terms of the Albanian scene. According to ~~Alplee~~, there are perhaps 50,000 radios within the country; of these, the majority of the independent sets belong to Communist Party members who may listen to the programs in the privacy of their own homes. The rest of the radios are believed to be assigned to groups, and some are known to belong to certain villages with a loud-speaker system set up in the public square for general listening. These last two categories - the "group"

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2-126-201

SECRET KAPOK

- 2 -

and "public" radios - are undoubtedly controlled by the local Party officials and we must therefore presume that the general public cannot listen to other than the State-prescribed radio programs. This means that we must direct such a program only to those with private radios; the majority of these people are in effect Party members.

Secondly, since WEMCA uses only the sky-wave propagation method of transmitting our programs, we can be certain only that this program is heard within an area which is approximately fifty miles in diameter. In this particular case, we have chosen Tirane as the center of impact because, as the capitol and as the largest town in Albania, it presumably has more Party members and more radios per capita than any other area in Albania.

OBTEST/1 has consequently been tailored to these exigencies. Since its inception in May 1957, OBTEST/1 has broadcast on an average of one new script per week. Until March 1958, the program utilized about 60 transmitter hours a month; since that time the program has been boosted to 180 broadcast hours monthly. The programs are now aired six times daily, being broadcast on two frequencies simultaneously at each airing.

~~46~~ Proposed Plans

4m To continue the operation of this clandestine radio station during the period 1 July 1958 to 30 June 1959, such program purporting to be a statement of the belief of various Albanian Communist Party members who have become disaffected with the current management of the Regime. The place of origination is not mentioned, although allusions in the programs may indicate that it comes from outside Albania. OBTEST/1 should be allocated a maximum of 220 transmitter hours monthly at the WEMCA transmitter facilities in the vicinity of Athens, Greece.

5. Operational Outline

a. Sub-proposals or tasks

4m Personnel assigned under this project will be required to produce propaganda radio scripts at such a frequency and having such content as shall be directed by the KUBARK Staff Officer in charge. Personnel will also be responsible for monitoring of Radio Tirane, performing such research as may be necessary, interrogation of selected refugees for applicable propaganda material, and, insofar as is possible, evaluation of OBTEST/1 production through the monitoring of these programs and the assimilation of data obtained from refugees, monitoring reports from FBIS, and Headquarters' guidance.

4j b. Key personnel

One PBPRIME Case Officer is responsible for program content, administrative support of the Albanian staff, and liaison with WEMCA for the maintenance of the technical equipment. One PBPRIME Albanian-speaking Career Agent is

SECRET KAPOK

2-126-201  
7 June 58

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responsible for the review and translation of the scripts for appropriateness and factual content, evaluation of current affairs in the light of future broadcasting, and general support to the Case Officer.

~~4~~ Indigenous Personnel

OBTEST/1 requires at least one person in addition to the Albanian-speaking Career Agent to produce the scripts and act as speaker on the program. If we hope to continue this program at its present level of quality, a second person of a caliber of AIPLEBE will be needed because: (1) there is always the possibility that AIPLEBE will become less and less imaginative as he becomes more divorced from the world of Communism; (2) it is highly desirable to have two speakers on the program to provide a necessary change of pace which helps to capture the listener's attention; (3) the interchange between AIPLEBE and another person of the same ilk would help OBTEST/1 by helping to guarantee continued stimulating scripts. We will be on the constant lookout for a new recruit of the character of AIPLEBE; if such an asset can be found, we would amend this Project to cover our increased obligations.

~~4~~ Target Groups and Effectiveness

Middle-level members of the Government of Albania and members of the Albanian Workers' Party located in the general area of Tirane. Secondary targets include Soviet personnel stationed in or near Tirane, and those non-Party members, generally in some phase of industry or commerce, who have the capability of influencing governmental action in the course of their business. This is admittedly a very small - possibly five per cent - section of the Albanian population. Nevertheless, this is the group that has absolute and sole command of Albanian policy.

~~4~~ Duration

This Field Project Outline is a specific request for continuance of Project OBTEST for the period 1 July 1958 to 30 June 1959. In general, this Project is considered to be of indefinite duration, its termination depending either on the alteration of KUBARK and PBPRIME policy objectives toward Albania, or on proof that broadcast reception within the country is so limited that the cost of maintaining the project cannot be justified.

~~3~~ Security

~~4~~ Cover

The Staff Officer and Career Agent are under cover as Department of Army civilians assigned to the           

     The indigenous employee has no authenticated cover; furthermore, his employment with KUBARK is known to HBHAUDDOCK since our plans for

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- 4 -

exploitation of this individual were jointly considered with HBHADDOCK. The clandestine radio is also known to HBHADDOCK for this same reason. As stated above, however, the natural cover for this radio consists of the allusion that it is directed by several disaffected Albanian Communists.

**b. Knowledgeability**

4(h) The indigenous employee is aware of ODYOKE sponsorship of the radio but is not specifically aware of KUBARK involvement. As stated above, HBHADDOCK is aware of the real nature of the program and of KUBARK involvement by virtue of the fact that a copy of each program is forwarded to HBHADDOCK at the time of airing.

**c. Operational Security**

This operation is compartmented from all other operations that are currently under force with the exception of Project OBSERVANT; one of the agents under OBSERVANT has been used as a speaker on OBTEST/1, and our indigenous employee presumably has some knowledge of the refugee interrogations conducted under OBSERVANT since some information gained thereby has been used on the clandestine programs. Adequate safe facilities and meeting plans, plus the use of aliases by Staff personnel have been used to preserve the security of this operation.

**d. Risks**

4(h) The National Socialist line and the brand of revisionism preached by OBTEST/1, if this were known to have PBPRIME origins, could be used by the Communist Party of Albania in an attempt to defeat the basic aims of the program. However, we consider this a minimum risk since ODYOKE policy toward Yugoslavia and Poland has already indicated that ODYOKE at least condones National Socialism as an acceptable course for the East European Satellites.

The Greek Government, which has given its blessing to OBTEST/1 through HBHADDOCK, would probably not be embarrassed if the true nature of OBTEST were to become known. The Greeks themselves are still at a state of war with Albania and are running far more aggressive operations into that country.

**e. Personnel Disposal**

No difficulty is foreseen in the disposal of AIPLEBE. Since AIPLEBE's parents reside in Greece, AIPLEBE himself would most probably wish to remain in the country, and his natural capabilities would probably not make it difficult for him to find employment here. Furthermore, Subject's current Letter of Intent makes provision for a termination bonus not to exceed 15,000.00 Drachmae (approximate equivalent 500.00 PBPRIME dollars) which we consider to be totally adequate in AIPLEBE's case.

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4. Disaster Plan

4 (1) Staff personnel and the Career Agent are included in the over-all disaster plan for LCFLAKE. The indigenous employee might be terminated, might become a stay-behind asset, or might be re-located and directed to continue his current duties; such a decision would of course depend upon the circumstances at the time.

7. Coordination

a. Relation to other Projects

4 (2) Project OBTEST is in close relation to Project OBSERVANT, the latter being an FI project which provides OBTEST with usable information when possible; OBTEST could possibly be geared if necessary to aid Project OBSERVANT in such matters as communication within Albania, or by giving advanced billing to some matter advantageous to OBSERVANT. The extent and manner of such cooperation between projects will be considered in detail only when a salutary situation presents itself.

b. Significance Within Over-all Project in Area

4 (3) Project OBTEST comprises the only full-time propaganda effort being run against Albania at the present time. Since Athens maintains the only field operations targetted to Albania, Project OBTEST plays of necessity an integral part in the over-all FI and PP effort into Albania.

c. Extent of Coordination

- (1) WEMCA provides technical equipment and maintenance personnel.
- (2) There is proposed liaison through KUBARK to the French and Italian Legations in Tirane to monitor OBTEST/1 in the Albanian Capitol.
- (3) The Greek Government permits the broadcast of these programs from Greek soil. Copies of each program are passed to HBHADDOCK (for their information only) at the time each program is aired.
- (4) No other PBPRIME agencies are involved with the exception of policy guidance received from ODACID.

8. Control

a. Nature of

- (1) The over-all financing of this project is under the sole control of KUBARK.
- (2) KUBARK personnel are responsible for supervising program production and editing of all scripts.

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(3) The indigenous employee is becoming more and more ideologically motivated against Communism. KUBARK also controls Subject's salary, and Subject presumably realizes that he is financially better off than if he were to earn a living in any other endeavor in Greece.

b. Reporting

Monthly reports are submitted to Headquarters in consonance with Field Regulation 50-700. Copies of each script in Albanian, accompanied by a pertinent English translation, are submitted with the monthly reports.

4 m 9. Budget Data

a. Total over-all KUBARK funds required for the Fiscal Year 1959:   (See attached financial breakdown).

b. Availability of funds: All funds mentioned in the attached breakdown should be made available to the field with the exception of  salary (\$5710.00) which is to be paid from Headquarters.

c. Non-KUBARK funds: None.

d. Foreign Currency: Yes.

e. Funding

The funds mentioned in paragraph 9b are to be released to the Case Officer for direct payment, and these funds are to be accounted for by regular financial accountings in accordance with KUBARK regulations.

f. Financial History

Funds requested for OBTEST/1 for the Fiscal Year 1958 amounted to \$5,450.00. The requested increase in funds for Fiscal 1959 is due to the fact that OBTEST/1 has assumed the financial obligation for such items as refugee subsistence, purchase of publications, and expenses for the physical plant and equipment that were heretofore assumed by the now-extinct HTGRUBBY portion of Project OBTEST.

g. Future Requirements

Financial requirements for the Fiscal Year 1960 are expected to continue at approximately the same level as those for Fiscal Year 1959.

10. Support Data

a. Total KUBARK Personnel

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- 7 -

(1) 1 Staff Case Officer.

(2) 1 Career Agent.

b. See the Communications Annex to this Project for the manner and extent of support to be received from WEMCA.

c. Other KUBARK Support

Purchase of applicable publications from [ ] is expected to continue. Such expenses will accrue to Project OBTEST in Athens.

11. General Considerations

a. Current Status: Fully operative.

b. Commitments:

General commitments to personnel employed under Project OBTEST are covered in individual Letter of Intent or in Contracts which are on file both at the [ ] and at Headquarters.

No commitments are to be made by OBTEST/1 over the air, nor is KUBARK committed to the Greek Government on the matter of this program other than the fact that a copy of each script will be given to HBHADDOCK for their information.

48  
Effectiveness:

There is to date no real basis for judging the effectiveness of this program. The program is frequently monitored by FBIS in London on the "second bounce" but this is not conclusive proof that the "first bounce" is being heard in Tirane. KUBARK learned of an alleged Sigurimi agent who had been sent on an harrassment mission against AIPLEBE. Although we have never been able to fully determine the full circumstances surrounding this agent, the facts, if true, could be applied as proof that OBTEST/1 causes consternation to the Albanian leaders, and this harrassment mission was an attempt to burn AIPLEBE. Finally, in the 16 March issue of Zeri i Popullit, ~~the Central Committee~~, a secretary in the Party's Central Committee branded as baseless the accusation of revisionists that the Party indulged in dogmatism and in the slavish application of Stalinism in Albania - one of the principle charges of OBTEST/1. There is, of course, no specific proof that [ ] was referring to OBTEST/1 in his pronouncement, but the general <sup>the Central Committee</sup> ~~of the attack~~ was such as to make this fairly clear.

44  
Anticipated Results

This program is designed to bring about changes in Albania that lead to a greater liberalization. We plan to promote favorable circumstances for

SECRET KAPOK

48

2-126-2011

such changes by encouraging divisiveness within the middle-level bureaucratic clique which has everyday responsibility for the management of Albanian affairs, by embarrassing certain officials whenever this is feasible, and by offering - insofar as possible - precise suggestions for the improvement of the situation. Certainly we cannot guarantee such hopes under the heading of "anticipated results;" if our program is effective in weakening the regime, the Albanian leaders could very possibly try to counteract OBTEST/1 by harsher and more repressive measures instead of turning to this desired liberalization. Frankly, the specific results which we hope to attain during the Fiscal Year 1959 are: (1) an enlargement of our listening audience; and (2) creation of an atmosphere which is more acceptable to liberalization of the regime.

e. Evaluation

To date, no refugees who have been interrogated by KUBARK have claimed any knowledge of OBTEST/1. Other means of evaluation, i.e., monitoring the program on the Albanian border, FBIS monitoring reports, and attention to the reaction of Albanian leaders relating the matters covered by OBTEST/1 have been inconclusive. In the coming year, we hope to improve this situation by (1) having OBTEST/1 monitored in Tirane, and (2) co-ordinating with OBSERVANT to have more extensive refugee interrogations. OBTEST/1 plans to adopt one or two campaigns for specific changes within Albania that will be repeated continuously over the coming year. One such campaign deals with the rehabilitation of one of the foremost Albanian modern poets, Gjergj Fishta. Any action taken by the Albanian Government which also relates to these campaigns will also help our evaluations of the program. Finally, for a favorable Headquarters' evaluation of OBTEST/1, see C 16283, 16 July 1957.

f. Policy Questions

Propaganda policy guidance is furnished by KUBARK in coordination with ODACID.

g. Special Considerations

It is considered highly desirable to have a full time qualified PSYCH officer, preferably Albanian-speaking, to assume the management of this project in order to guarantee top quality direction for the program.

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Attachment A to

Attachment to SGAA- 32537

FISCAL YEAR 1959 - PROJECT BUDGET ESTIMATE

1. Agent Salaries

a.   \$ 5,710.00

b. AIPLEBE  2,500.00

c. Indigenous agent (to be hired)  2,000.00

2. Safehouse Expenses (Including Maintenance)

a. Safehouse  PROPHOUSE 1,700.00

b. To be rented  1,500.00

3. Travel Expenses

a.   Home Leave 4,000.00

b. Operational Travel  500.00

4. Operational Expenses

a. Refugee subsistence

b. Purchase of publications

c. Equipment

d. Office supplies

5. Other Expenses

a.   Education Allowance

b. Language Lessons

c. Language Lessons AIPLEBE

d.   Quarters

e. AIPLEBE Quarters

f. Transportation & expenses incidental to necessary   another indigenous agent

TOTAL

NOTE: In addition to the above items, AIPLEBE's Letter of Intent requests authority to obligate a maximum of \$500.00 to be paid at the time of termination. This termination is not foreseen during the fiscal Year 1959.

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2-126-201  
9 June 1959